

ARAB POPULATION IN ISRAEL:

DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDICATORS*

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1. Israel's population, by ethnic group (beginning of 2018)

Population	Population	Percentage
Jews	6,571,200	74.5%
Arabs	1,843,100	20.9%
Other ¹	401,700	4.8%
Total	8,816,000	100.0%

2. Arab population by religion (beginning of 2018)

Religion	Population	Percentage
Muslims	1,562,900	84.8%
Druze	143,800	7.8%
Christians	136,400	7.4%
Total	1,843,100	100.0%

3. Arab population in Israel (selected years, end of year)

Year	Population	Percentage
1947 ²	1,300,000	68.4%
1948	156,000	17.9%
1961	252,500	11.3%
1972 ³	472,200	14.6%
1983 ⁴	706,100	17.1%
1995	1,004,900	17.9%
2005	1,377,100	19.7%
2016	1,796,400	20.8%

* Sources: Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, *Statistical Abstract of Israel* (selected years); National Insurance Institute, *Annual Survey* (selected years).

¹ "Other" includes non-Jewish spouses of Jewish citizens, mainly from former USSR countries.

² Figures relate to the Arab population of Mandatory Palestine as of November 1947, when the UN's General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 ("The Partition Plan"). At the time, the Jewish population in Mandatory Palestine totaled 600,000 inhabitants (31.6% of the entire population).

³ Figures since 1972 include Arab residents of East Jerusalem who were included in national censuses after the 1967 War ("Six Day War").

⁴ Figures since 1983 include Druze inhabitants of the Golan Heights, following the ratification of the 1981 Golan Heights Law, which applied Israel's jurisdiction to that region.

4. Arab population, by geographic distribution (end of 2015)*

Region	Percentage
Northern District (Galilee and Golan)	42.1%
Central District (including "The Triangle") ⁵	16.4%
Jerusalem District ⁶	19.1%
Southern District (including the Negev)	13.7%
Mixed Jewish-Arab Cities ⁷	8.7%
Total	100.0%

* Also see map on page 6.

5. Socio-economic scale of local councils in Israel (2013 survey)⁸

SES Cluster	Arab localities		Jewish localities	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
7-10 (highest)	-	-	81	100%
6	2	7%	27	93%
5	2	7%	28	93%
4	12	40%	18	60%
3	28	78%	8	22%
2	32	80%	8	20%
1 (lowest)	9	82%	2	18%

6. Age of population, by religion (average, 2015)

Years	Jews	Arab Christians	Muslims	Druze
0-14	27%	23%	37%	28%
0-19	34%	32%	48%	38%
0-24	41%	40%	57%	47%
0-34	55%	55%	71%	63%
Median age	31.6	31.4	21.3	26.7

⁵ "The Triangle" refers to a geographical area (mainly the Ara Valley [*Wadi Ara*]) east of Israel's central-coastal region, which was annexed to the State of Israel in the Ceasefire Accords, signed in April 1949, between Israel and its Arab neighbors (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon).

⁶ Figures for Jerusalem include some 300,000 Arab inhabitants of East Jerusalem (estimated figures, end of 2011) who have "permanent resident" status (not citizenship) and therefore cannot participate in national (Knesset) elections.

⁷ This category includes Arab inhabitants of five cities: Akko (30% Arab), Haifa (10%), Jaffa (31%), Ramle (22%), and Lod (28%). These cities have been traditionally referred to as "mixed cities" (or "ethnically mixed cities") in public and academic discourse. However, considerable numbers of Arab inhabitants reside in other major cities in Israel, including Jerusalem (36% Arab), Ma'alot-Tarshiha (19%), and Upper Nazareth (15%) in the Galilee (northern part of Israel).

⁸ The **Socio-Economic Scale (SES)** of Israeli Localities, published every few years by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) – the most recent in November 2016 – uses a combination of a basic socio-economic indicators to rate the socio-economic status of localities, including residents' sources of income, housing statistics, municipal infrastructure, household ownership of durable goods, motorization level, educational level, employment and unemployment, and several demographic indicators and indicators of social distress.

7. Median years of education, by population group (selected years)

Year	1961	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2015
Arabs	1.2	5.0	7.5	9.0	11.1	11.1	12.0
Jews	8.4	9.3	11.1	11.9	12.5	12.7	13.0

8. Life expectancy, by gender and population group (selected years)

	Males		Females	
	Jews	Arabs	Jews	Arabs
1948	65.0	49.0	65.0	52.0
2015	80.9	76.9	84.5	81.1

9. Natural growth and fertility rate, by religion (selected years)

	Annual increase ⁹		Fertility rate ¹⁰	
	1998	2015	1998	2015
Jews	1.1%	1.9%	2.7	3.1
Muslims	3.5%	2.4%	4.8	3.3
Christians	1.7%	1.1%	2.6	2.1
Druze	2.4%	1.4%	3.1	2.2

10. Income levels, participation in labor force, and unemployment rates for individuals aged 15 and above, by population group and gender (average, 2015)

	Gross monthly income (NIS) [2013]		Participation in civilian labor force		Of which: Unemployed	
	Arabs	Jews	Arabs	Jews	Arabs	Jews
Male	6,453	11,652	63.7%	70.3%	5.7%	5.0%
Female	5,210	7,555	27.3%	65.8%	9.1%	5.1%
<i>Total</i>	6,076	9,566	45.5%	68.0%	6.8%	5.1%

11. Population under poverty line¹¹ (selected years)

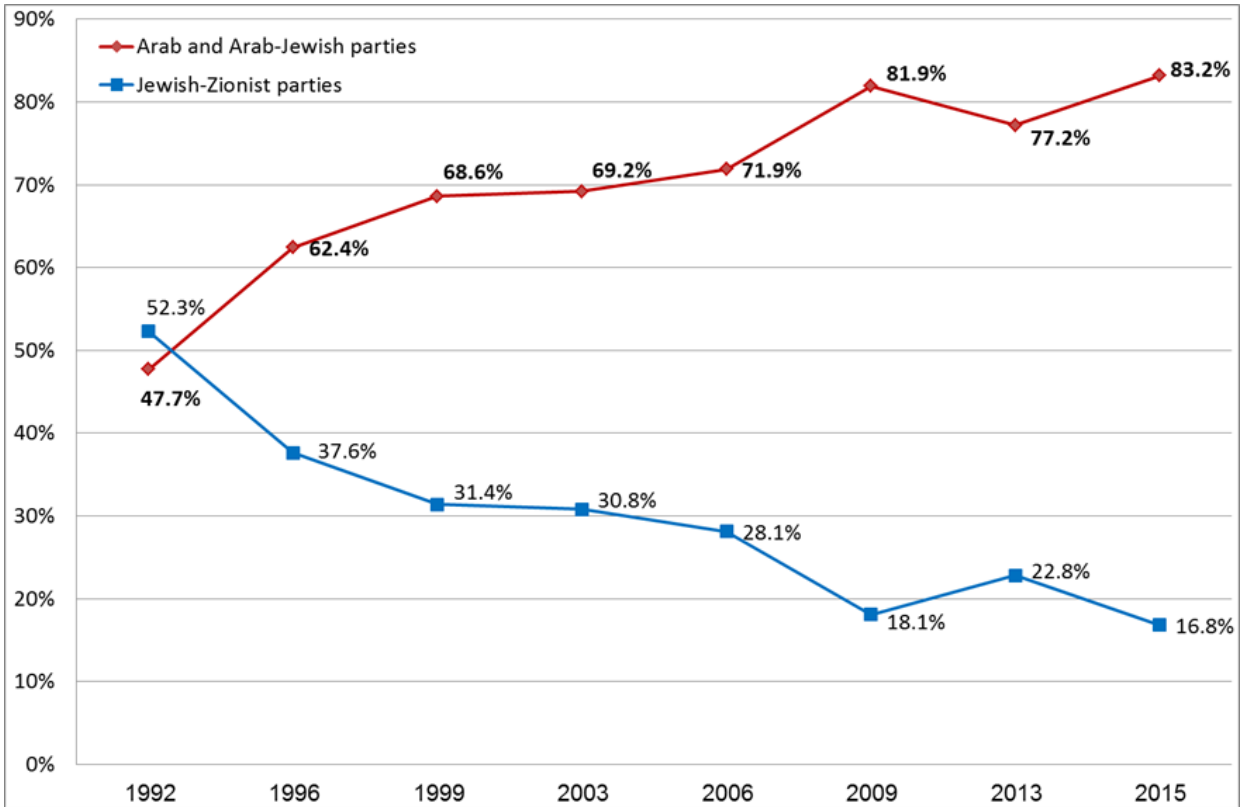
	Arabs		Jews	
	1995	2015	1995	2015
Families / Households	31.2%	53.3%	15.1%	13.8%
Children (under 18)	40.6%	63.1%	18.6%	19.8%

⁹ "Natural growth" is the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths in a population during the year.

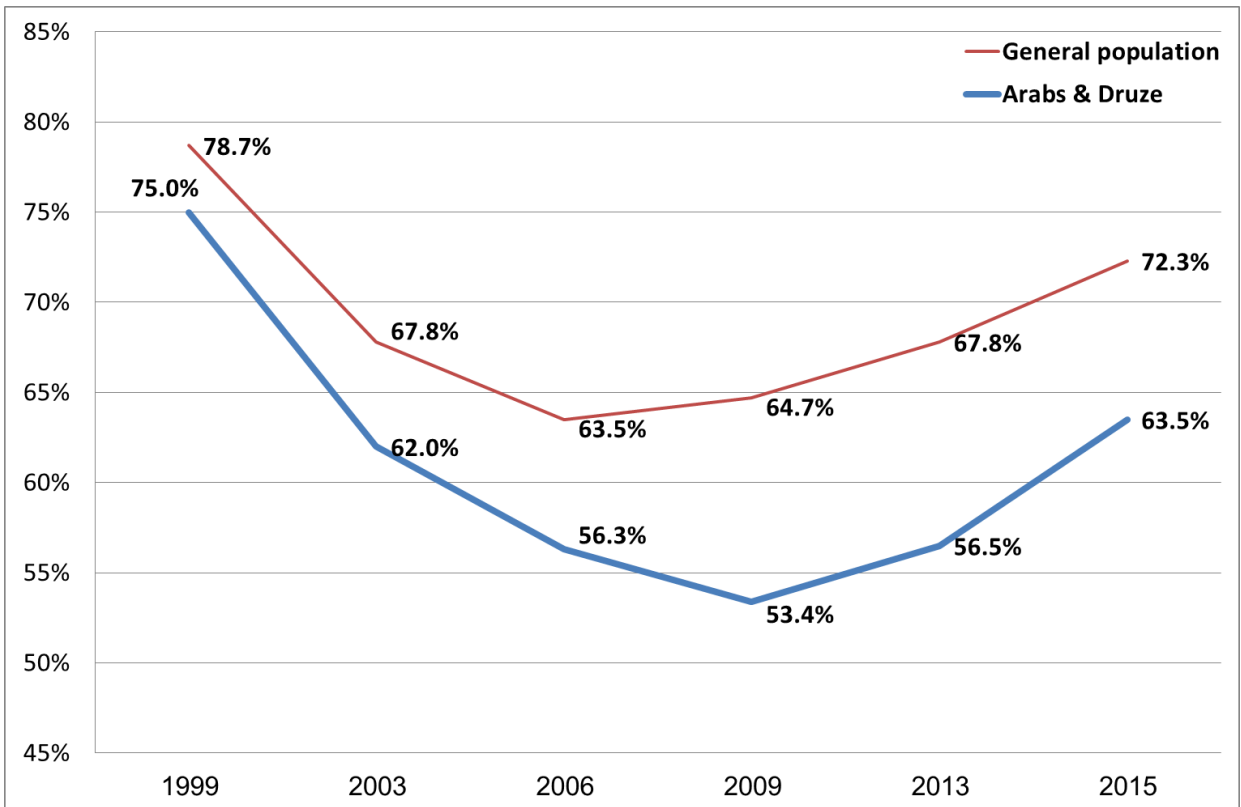
¹⁰ "Fertility rate" is the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime.

¹¹ "Poverty line" in Israel is defined as one-half of the median disposable income.

12. Distribution of Voting in Arab and Druze Localities: 1992-2015



13. Arab and nationwide vote rates in Knesset elections: 1999-2015



14. Voting Patterns in Arab and Druze Localities in the 2015 Elections

Party	% of votes	No. of votes
Joint List ¹²	82.4%	387,810
Arab List ¹³	0.6%	2,758
Hope for Change ¹⁴	0.2%	1,147
<i>Arab and Arab-Jewish parties (non-Zionist)</i>	83.2%	391,715
Zionist Camp (Labor & Ha-Tnua)	4.9%	22,841
Meretz	2.6%	12,439
Kulanu (“All of Us”)	2.3%	11,036
Yisrael Beytenu (“Israel is Our Home”)	2.3%	10,855
Shas	1.6%	7,358
Likud	1.5%	6,871
Yesh Atid (“There is a Future”)	0.7%	3,214
Habayit Hayehudi (“The Jewish Home”)	0.2%	759
Other parties	0.7%	3,539
<i>Zionist and Jewish parties</i>	16.8%	78,942

¹² **The Joint List** is a political alliance of three Arab parties in Israel – **The United Arab List** (*Ra’am*, the parliamentary branch of the Islamic Movement), **The Arab Movement for Change** (*Ta’al*) and the **National Democratic Alliance** (*Balad*) – together with the **Democratic Front for Peace and Equality** (*Hadash*), an Arab-Jewish party. The non-parliamentary branch of the Islamic Movement denounces the entire electoral project. The raising of the electoral threshold from 2% to 3.25% led the parties to create an alliance which would increase their chances of crossing the threshold. The Joint List is headed by Ayman Odeh, leader of Hadash. The list is ideologically diverse and includes Communists, socialists, feminists, Islamists, and Palestinian nationalists.

¹³ The Arab List emerged as a political alliance to counter the Joint List on the eve of the 20th Knesset elections. It was a coalition of two relatively small Arab parties in Israel: the National Arab Party (NAP) and the Arab Democratic Party (ADP). Two weeks before Election Day the coalition disintegrated.

¹⁴ The Hope for Change list was established on the eve of the 2013 Knesset elections as a new political actor in Arab politics in Israel, but did not pass the electoral threshold. It also competed in the 2015 elections but once again did not gain significant support in the Arab street.

15. Geographic distribution of Israel's Arab population

